WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising a NO donor in admixture with a second agent selected from the group consisting of phosphodiesterase type II inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type IV inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type V inhibitors, nonspecific phosphodiesterase inhibitors, superoxide scavengers, β-adrenergic agonists, cAMP-dependent protein kinase activators, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, estrogens, ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators and smooth muscle relaxants, with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. A composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said NO donor is selected from the group consisting of nitroglycerin, L-arginine, SNAP, GSNO and SIN-1, and said second agent is a superoxide scavenger selected from the group consisting of superoxide dismutase and chemical superoxide dismutase mimetics.

3. A composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said carrier is formulated for local application.

4. A composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said second agent is selected from the group consisting of phosphodiesterase type II inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type IV inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type V inhibitors, and nonspecific phosphodiesterase inhibitors.

5. A composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said second agent is selected from the group consisting of β-adrenergic agonists.

6. A composition in accordance with claim 5, wherein said β-adrenergic agonist is selected from the group consisting of β_2-adrenergic agonists and β_3-adrenergic agonists.

7. A composition in accordance with claim 1, wherein said second agent is selected from the group consisting of ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators.

8. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising a phosphodiesterase inhibitor and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

9. A composition in accordance with claim 8, wherein said phosphodiesterase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of phosphodiesterase type II inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type IV inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type V inhibitors, and nonspecific phosphodiesterase inhibitors.

10. A composition in accordance with claim 9, further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of β-adrenergic agonists, cAMP-dependent protein kinase activators, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, L-type Ca^{2+} channel blockers, estrogens, ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators and smooth muscle relaxants.

11. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising a β-adrenergic agonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein said β-adrenergic agonist is specific for a receptor isoform selected from the group consisting of β_2, β_3 and combinations thereof.

13. A composition in accordance with claim 11, wherein said β-adrenergic agonist is isoproterenol.

14. A composition in accordance with claim 11, further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of cAMP-hydrolyzing PDE inhibitors, nonspecific PDE inhibitors, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, estrogens, L-type Ca^{2+} channel blockers, ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators and smooth muscle relaxants.

15. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising an ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activator and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. A composition in accordance with claim 15, further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of cAMP-dependent protein kinase activators, estrogens, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, L-type Ca^{2+} channel blockers and smooth muscle relaxants.

17. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising an α_1-adrenergic antagonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

18. A composition in accordance with claim 17, said composition further comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of cAMP-hydrolyzing phosphodiesterase inhibitors, estrogens and smooth muscle relaxants.

19. A composition in accordance with claim 17, wherein said cAMP-hydrolyzing phosphodiesterase inhibitor is a phosphodiesterase type IV inhibitor.

20. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith said composition comprising a cAMP-dependent protein kinase activator and an L-type Ca^{2+} channel blocker.

21. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising a cGMP-dependent protein kinase activator and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier..

22. A composition for the treatment of an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, said composition comprising a nonspecific cyclic nucleotide-dependent protein kinase activator, optionally in admixture with a smooth muscle relaxant.

23. A method of treating an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amounts of a NO donor and a second agent selected from the group consisting of phosphodiesterase type II inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type IV inhibitors, phosphodiesterase type V inhibitors, nonspecific phosphodiesterase inhibitors, superoxide scavengers, β-adrenergic agonists, cAMP-dependent protein kinase activators, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, estrogens, L-type Ca^{2+} channel blockers, ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators and smooth muscle relaxants.

24. A method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said NO donor and said second agent are administered in combination.

25. A method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said second agent is administered prior to said NO donor.

26. A method in accordance with claim 23, wherein said anorectal disorder is an anal fissure.

27. A method of treating an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a phosphodiesterase inhibitor.

28. A method in accordance with claim 27, further comprising administering to said subject a second agent selected from the group consisting of β-adrenergic agonists, cAMP-dependent protein kinase activators, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, estrogens, L-type Ca^{2+} channel blockers, ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators and smooth muscle relaxants.

29. A method of treating an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a β-adrenergic agonist.

30. A method in accordance with claim 29, further comprising administering to said subject a second agent selected from the group consisting of cAMP-dependent protein kinase activators, α_1-adrenergic antagonists, estrogens, L-type Ca^{2+} channel blockers, ATP-sensitive K^+ channel activators and smooth muscle relaxants.

31. A method of treating an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising an ATP-sensitive potassium channel opener and an agent that promotes cAMP-mediated anal sphincter relaxation.

32. A method of treating an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a

potassium channel opener, wherein said therapeutically effective amount decreases hypertonicity of an anal sphincter muscle of the subject.

33. A method of treating an anorectal disorder, and for controlling the pain associated therewith, the method comprising administering to a subject in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and an agent which increases a level of cyclic guanidine monophosphate or cyclic adenosine monophosphate in a tissue of an anal sphincter muscle of the subject, thereby decreasing hypertonicity of the anal sphincter muscle of the subject.

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